

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 CA-01
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DRAFTED BY EA/RA/PMCLEVELAND/MJ
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163986

FOR AMBASSADOR MILLER FROM OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT CHINESE REFUGEES - PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

REF: SINGAPORE 2844

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNHCR REP. SAMPATKUMAR IS INVITING
YOU ALONG WITH OTHER AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR
TO ATTEND JULY 3 INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE. I
WOULD APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH IF YOU WOULD ATTEND AS
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OUR REPRESENTATIVE. LOWMAN AND FRIEDMAN ALSO WILL
ATTEND. IN ACCORD REFTEL SUGGESTION WE ARE URGING TOP
LEVEL UNHCR ATTENDANCE BY SEPARATE MESSAGE TO OUR
MISSION IN GENEVA.

2. WHILE WE AGREE NECESSITY AVOIDING PITFALLS CITED
REFTEL WE ALSO HOPE TO AVOID HAVING CONFERENCE LIMITED

TO DISCUSSION OF LOCAL DETAILS. WE WISH RATHER TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED HERE FOR THOROUGH DISCUSSION BROADER ASPECTS OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND ITS IMPACT ON ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. OBVIOUSLY, WHAT HAPPENS IN THAILAND EFFECTS WHAT HAPPENS IN MALAYSIA, THEN DOWN THE LINE TO INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA. IN VIEW PRESENT CRITICAL SITUATION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FIRST OF ALL

FOR CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS WAYS AND MEANS OF INSURING BEST POSSIBLE FUNCTIONING OF CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS THROUGHOUT AREA. WE ALSO SHOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT ANTICIPATED AUSTRALIAN EFFORTS AT CONFERENCE TO MINIMIZE PRACTICE OF SENDING BOATS ON SO THEY END UP ON AUSTRALIAN SHORES, RECOGNIZING THAT WE HAVE A WEAKER POSITION THAN WHEN WE FIRST AGREED TO DO THIS. FINALLY, IN ADDITION TO LAYING GROUND WORK FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION OF PROBLEM AT US/ASEAN TALKS IN AUGUST AND UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION, WE SHOULD, AS OPPORTUNITY ARISES, ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF HOLDING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, AS PERHAPS ONLY UNEXPLORED ALTERNATIVE TO INCREASING RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWING NUMBER OF REFUGEES. VANCE

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